

COMMUNITY POLICE REVIEW COMMISSION POLICY RECOMMENDATION

RPD Policy and Procedures 4.14 Towing, Storage, and Recovery of Vehicles

Rationale for the Policy Recommendation:

As a result of a complaint filed against RPD personnel, it was found that officers routinely follow a common, but unwritten practice of towing cars that are unsafe to drive. It was also found that Policy 4.14, which should govern such actions, has been under revision since 1995.

The actions that officers are currently taking may be legal, but when auto theft victims are not given a reasonable chance to retrieve their vehicles they are, in a sense, being victimized twice; once by the thief and once by the system that tows their car and has it impounded several days before the victim becomes aware that the car has been recovered, all the while accruing storage fees.

Policy Recommendation:

1. The Community Police Review Commission recommends that the Riverside Police Department complete the revision of Policy 4.14 and include in that revision explicit instructions on what officers should do when a recovered stolen vehicle is judged to be unsafe to drive.

It is also recommended that the victim of an auto theft be given a reasonable time, as defined by RPD, to make his/her own towing/storage arrangements.

William Howe, Chairperson
Community Police Review Commission

0523cprc.rec 01-022